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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Donald E. Wilcox
APPLN. NO: 09/765,176
FILED: 18 January 2001 GROUP ART UNIT: 3721
TITLE: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ENHANCING
EVACUATION OF BULK MATERIAL SHIPPER BAGS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows.

On page 10, lines 23-32, please substitute the following paragraph:

For the embodiments of FIGS. 1-36, a fourth seal completes an inflatable air chamber in the interply region; and I add a fourth seal if it is not already present. One way to form the fourth seal is to use the weight of the bag contents, such as by placing the fold on the bottom of the container, so that the contents hold the plies together in a quasi-seal. Alternatively, a physical seal can be formed connecting the two edge seals positioned under the contents or on the opposite side of the contents from the third seal. Other seals can also be employed, or the seals can be combined into one or more continuous seals, but the four seals discussed above are the minimum required. The connection to the air chamber can be made at any point in the air chamber, but the air chamber inflates sooner and grows larger if the connection is made higher in the container.

On page 20, beginning at line 28 through page 21, line 31, please substitute the following paragraphs:

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